

Appn. No.: 10/678,691
Amendment Dated: November 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: May 26, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head having test head electrical contacts and a peripheral having peripheral electrical contacts, comprising

a plurality of alignment features which are coupled to one of said test head and said peripheral; and

a plurality of linear units coupled to the other of said test head and said peripheral for causing movement of at least one of respective docking surfaces of said test head and said peripheral towards and away from each other,

an actuating member which, when actuated, causes actuation of said plurality of linear units to cause said movement of said respective docking surfaces,

said alignment features and said linear units preventing said test head and said peripheral from being closer to each other than a docked distance,

wherein, at said docked distance, said test head electrical contacts and said peripheral electrical contacts are in contact with each other; and

a sliding unit for

a) changing position of said linear units relative to said other of said test head and said peripheral or

b) changing position of said alignment features relative to said one of said test head and said peripheral

in order to change said docked distance.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral according to claim 1, wherein said one of said test head and said

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peripheral is coupled to said alignment features for docking said one of said test head and said peripheral with said other of said test head and peripheral.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral according to claim 1, wherein one of said linear units includes one of a male and female threaded member attached to the other of said test head and peripheral.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral according to claim 3, wherein one of said frame-alignment features includes the other of said male and said female member threaded member.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral according to claim 3, wherein said one of said male and female threaded member is rotated in order to move said frame-alignment features towards or away from said docking surface of the other of said test head and said peripheral.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral according to claim 4, wherein the other of said male and female member is rotated in order to move said frame-alignment features towards or away from said docking surface of the other of said test head and said peripheral.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral according to claim 1, wherein one of said linear units is coupled to a detent plate having a detent, said detent plate is coupled to the other of said test head and said peripheral, a lever is coupled to one of said frame-alignment features, and said lever engages said detent to indicate said frame is in an intended position relative to the other of said test head and said peripheral.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said linear unit is one of a plurality of linear units are for moving said frame.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein said detent is one of a plurality of detents for indicating a respective plurality of intended positions of said frame one of said plurality of alignment features relative to the other of said test head and said peripheral.

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10. (Original) Apparatus of claim 8, wherein a crank is rotated to cause said plurality of linear units to move said frame.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said docking surface is between said frame-plurality of alignment features and said one of said test head and said peripheral.

12. (Currently Amended) Method for establishing a distance between a test head having test head electrical contacts and a peripheral having peripheral electrical contacts, comprising:

providing a frame which is plurality of alignment features which are coupled to one of said test head and said peripheral and which is are detached from the other of said test head and said peripheral; and

actuating a plurality of actuators to adjust said frame-plurality of alignment features towards or away from a docking surface of said one of said test head and said peripheral to change said distance,

wherein said frame-plurality of alignment features prevent prevents said test head and said peripheral from being closer to each other than said distance, and, at said distance, said test head electrical contacts and said peripheral electrical contacts are in contact with each other.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 12, wherein said one of said test head and said peripheral is coupled to said alignment features for docking said one of said test head and said peripheral with said other of said test head and peripheral.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 12, wherein said actuating step includes the actuation of a linear unit, said linear unit is one of a male and female threaded member attached to the other of said test head and peripheral.

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein one of said frame-alignment features includes the other of said male and said female member threaded member.

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16. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein said one of said male and female threaded member is rotated in order to move ~~said frame~~ one of said alignment features towards or away from said docking surface of the other of said test head and said peripheral.

17. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 15, wherein the other of said male and female member is rotated in order to move ~~said frame~~ one of said alignment features towards or away from said docking surface of the other of said test head and said peripheral.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 12, wherein one of said actuators actuates said linear unit which is coupled to a detent plate having a detent, said detent plate is coupled to the other of said test head and said peripheral, a lever is coupled to one of said frame alignment features, and said lever engages said detent to indicate ~~said frame~~ one of said alignment features is in an intended position relative to the other of said test head and said peripheral.

19. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 12, wherein ~~said linear unit is one of a plurality of linear units~~ actuators are for moving said frame.

20. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 19, wherein a crank is rotated to cause ~~said plurality of linear units to move~~ movement of said frame.

21. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 12, wherein said docking surface is between ~~said frame~~ plurality of actuators and said one of said test head and said peripheral.

22. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein said detent is one of a plurality of detents for indicating a respective plurality of intended positions of said ~~frame~~ one of said actuators relative to the other of said test head and said peripheral.

23. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
~~an alignment feature coupled to one of said frame and said peripheral; and~~
a guide coupled to the other of said frame test head and said peripheral;

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said guide and one of said alignment features are separated prior to said adjustable movement of at least one of said framedocking surfaces;

 said guide engaging one of said alignment features at said distance.

24. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 12, said method further comprising the steps of:

 providing an alignment feature coupled to one of said frame and said peripheral;

 providing a guide coupled to the other of said frame test head and said peripheral so that said guide and one of said alignment features are separated prior to said adjustable movement of at least one of said framedocking surfaces; and

 allowing said guide to engage one of said alignment features at said distance.